

Generic Assessment Tool 1.0

(TIT10AID, SWE I Praxisprojekt 2011/2012)

User Manual

Project: Generic Assessment Tool 1.0

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1. Introduction

This document describes the use of the tool "Generic Assessment Tool 1.0" (GAT). The GAT is basically a program for the creation and evaluation of questionnaires, reviews, assessments and validations. It can be used for purposes of software engineering, human resources management and further more.

1.1. License

This program is under the *General Public License* (GPL).

2. Core functions

This chapter gives a brief overview of the core functions and functionalities of the GAT. There are two main purposes for this tool: creation of an assessment and evaluation of an assessment.

2.1. Creation of an assessment

The user can create an assessment with customized categories and questions. It is possible to create categories in categories to achieve a complex assessment structure in any depth.

2.2. Structure of an assessment

An assessment can contain any number of questions and categories. A category can contain any number of subcategories and questions. Additionally, the user can define custom criteria for questions.

A question consists of name, description, criterion and weight. Weight is used to give questions different significance.

2.3. Evaluation of an assessment

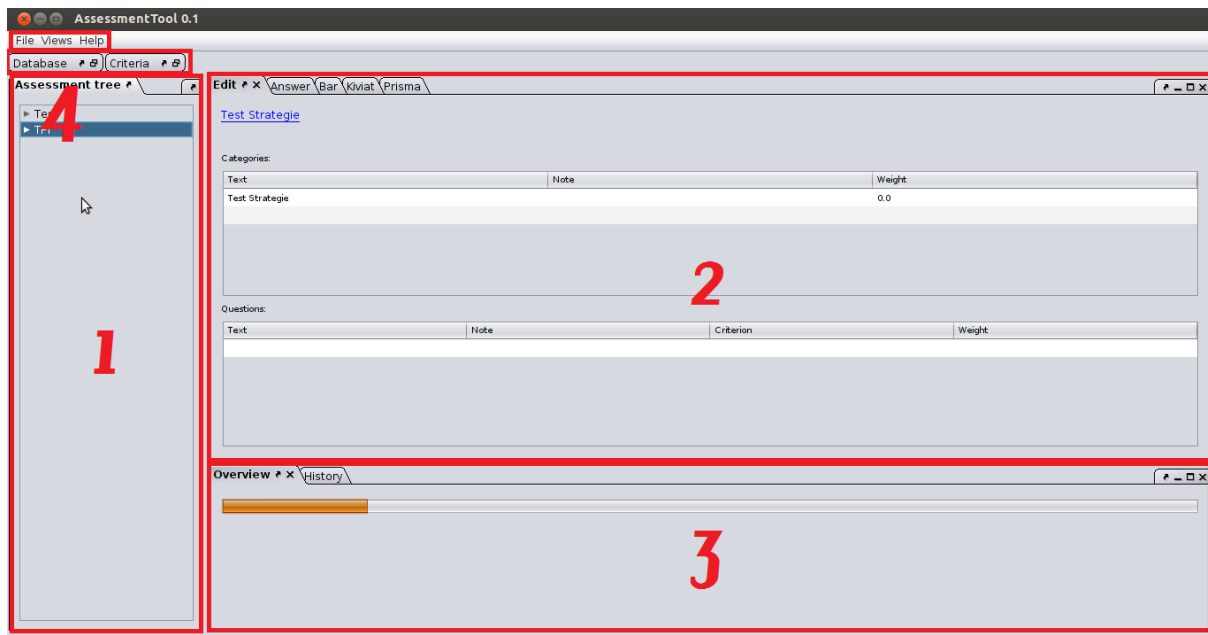
The user can display filled-out assessments or categories as prism-, bar- or kiviati-diagram.

2.4. Export of an assessment

It is possible to export an assessment as PDF, XLS or XML file. These files are used to view (pdf) or view and edit (xls) questions. XML is used to export the whole data of an assessment to move assessments via e-mail or usb-sticks and import them again in the GAT.

3. Graphical User Interface

Chapter three describes the Graphical User Interface (GUI).



The GAT GUI offers the possibility to customize the layout by drag-and-drop and tab bars. By pressing the arrow at a tab the selected tab will pop out and act as a single window. By dragging this window into a tab bar, the window will attach to the tab bar and act as a tab. By clicking the "X", a tab will disappear.

Assessment tree [1]:

The assessment tree shows a tree-structure of each available assessment. The user can browse through assessments and open assessments or their categories to work on them.

Main Frame [2]:

This frame contains all the actions regarding a selected assessment or category from the assessment tree. The user can browse through questions and categories contained in the selected category and edit them. This frame contains a bar for tabs (as seen at the upper edge of [2]). By selecting single items of this bar, the user can open the frame for answering questions and also open the visual view of the selected item or assessment by selecting "Bar" for a bar diagram or "Kiviat" or "Prisma" for kiviatic- or prism diagrams.

Overview[3]:

This Frame contains an overview about the progress of the current selected item and shows the author of the assessment and the timestamp of the last recent change.

Menu[4]:

The Menu contains two parts: The Menu bar and two buttons for database settings and criteria management.

- Menu Bar
 - File: Menu to Import/Export files and close the tool
 - View: Opens or re-opens the different tabs/views
 - Help: Contains "About" and "help"
- Buttons
 - Database: contains the database settings
 - Criteria: View, edit and create criteria

4. Creating an assessment

This chapter gives detailed guidance for creating an assessment step-by-step.

1. connect to database
2. create assessment
3. create categories
4. create criteria
5. create questions
6. create dependencies

1. connect to database:

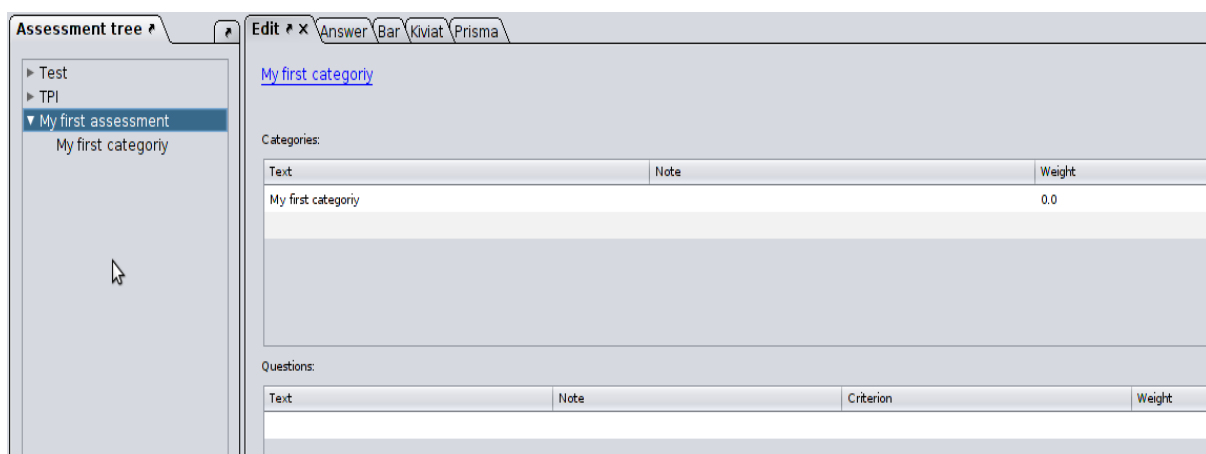
To connect to a database, click the "database"-button and select your connection. The tool uses the internal database at the start. You can choose an external database by clicking disconnect and selecting "External".

2. create assessment:

Simply right-click into the assessment-tree-frame and choose "create new assessment". To confirm, enter a name and press "OK".

3. create categories:

In the "edit"-tab of the Mainframe, you can create new categories in a selected item from the assessment tree by filling in a name in the categories list. In the example, the category is called "My first category". After pressing "Enter", the category appears in the assessment tree.



4. create criteria

To create criteria, click onto the "criteria"-button in the upper left corner of the tool and open the criteria-dialog:

Criteria Dialog Box:

Possible criteria: NUMERIC ALPHANUMERIC YESNO

Criteria:

Name	Type
My first criterion	ALPHANUMERIC

Criterion parameters: (lowest keys should be the best values)

Key	Value
1	A
2	B
3	
4	

Here you can create criteria by clicking on the empty row in the list on the left and select a type and fill in the type-regarding values at the list on the right.

5. create questions

To create a question, just click on the "Text"-cell in an empty row in the question list in the Main Frame. This will add a new question to the current selected item in the assessment tree. Now you can add a note and choose a criterion and the weight of the question.

Questions:

Text	Note	Criterion	Weight
my first question	Do you like this tool?	My first criterion	1.0
my second question		My first criterion	2.0

6. create dependencies

To create dependencies, select the answer-tab in the main-frame-bar and click on the "dependencies"-button. Then mark questions and select the grade of completion for the dependent question.

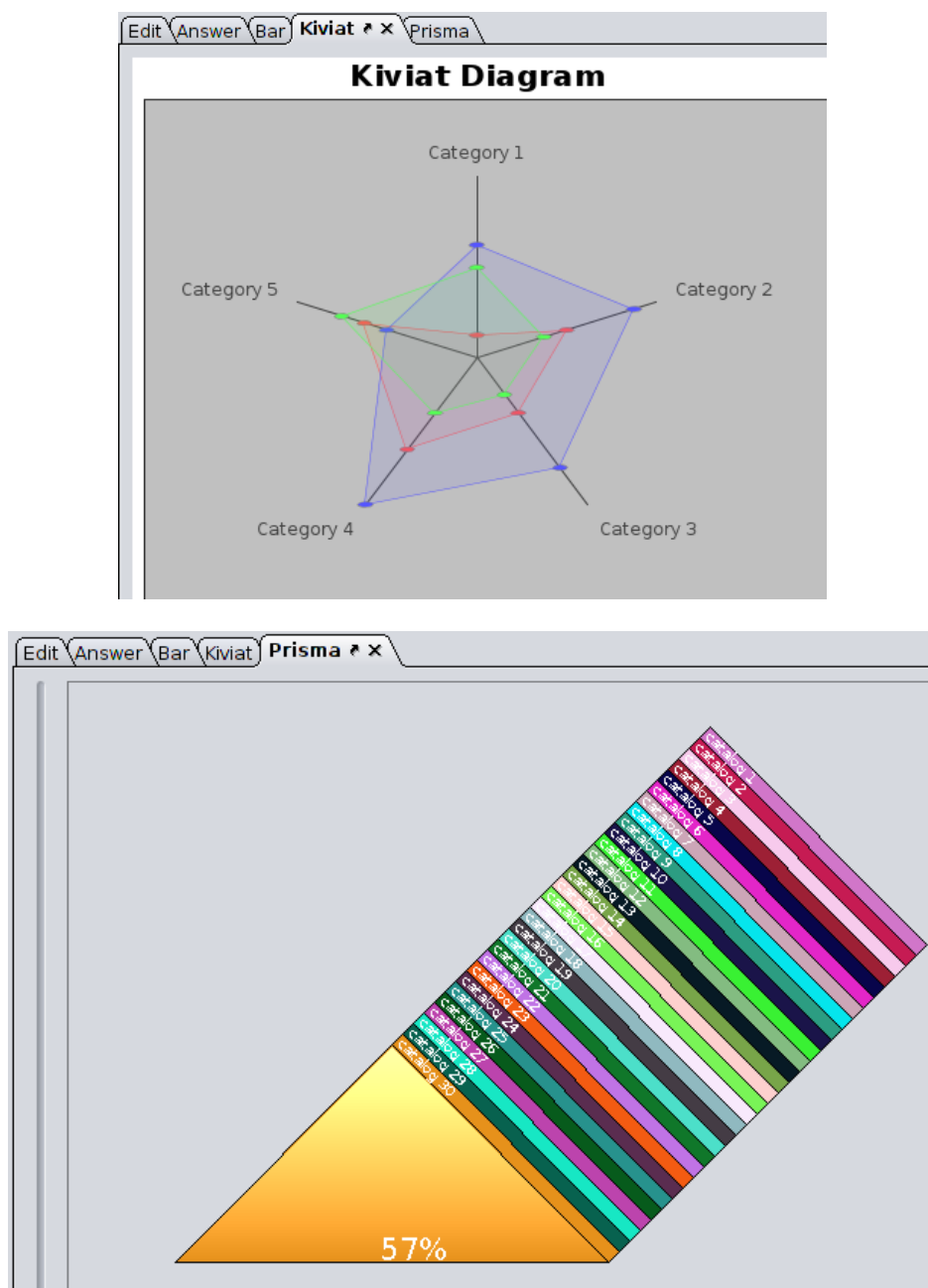
5. Evaluation of an assessment

It is possible to investigate an answered assessment by viewing it as bar-, prism- or kiviati-diagram.

To start the visualization of an assessment (or even just a category), you have to select an assessment or a category in the assessment tree. Then select the way of visualization by selecting a tab in the mainframe-bar: "Kiviati" for a kiviati-diagram, "Bar" for a bar-diagram and "Prisma" for a prism-diagram. In the prism-view, you can customize colors by right-clicking on an element.

The other possibility is to export an assessment as XLS- or PDF-File via the menu bar.

Some examples:



6. Export and import of an assessment

To export an assessment, simply click "export as XML" in the menu bar. You can customize the xml-file to apply changes to an assessment without the GAT, but it isn't recommended for beginners.

To import an assessment, just click on "import as XML" in the menu bar.